

Message Text

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61

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 MED-03 CPR-02 A-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /069 W

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P R 272238Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2275

DA PRIORITY

INFO DOD

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP,EC (LOPEZ, AIDA ALICEA)

SUBJECT: HOSPITALIZATION OF WIFE OF ECUADOREAN ARMY COMMANDER
LOPEZ

REF: QUITO 5614

1. EMBASSY IS APPRECIATIVE OF PROMPT ACTION REGARDING
HOSPITALIZATION OF MRS. AIDA ALICEA LOPEZ. IT WAS OUR
INTENT (REFTEL) TO HAVE MRS. LOPEZ CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION
TO MEDICAL FACILITIES UNDER THE MINIMUM REIMBURSEMENT
PROGRAM AS A SECRETARY OF THE ARMY-DESIGNEE, FOR REASONS
CITED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF THE REFTEL.

2. GENERAL LOPEZ' SALARY IS APPROXIMATELY \$580 US PER MONTH.
IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT THE LENGTH OF IN-PATIENT TREATMENT FOR
MRS. LOPEZ WOULD BE, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COST OF
HOSPITALIZATION AT THE RATE OF \$133 DOLLARS PER DAY, IN
ADDITION TO TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER EXPENSE, WOULD BE
PERSONALLY FINANCIALLY PROHIBITIVE. AS FAR BACK AS JUNE 1972,
MRS. LOPEZ' ILLNESS WAS REPORTED TO BE ONE THAT "CANNOT
BE PROPERLY TREATED AT ANY OF THE HOSPITALS IN THIS
COUNTRY".

3. ADMITTANCE OF MRS. LOPEZ AS A SECRETARY OF THE
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ARMY-DESIGNEE AT MINIMAL EXPENSE WOULD BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS

TO THE RAPPORT WHICH IS GRADUALLY BEING RE-ESTABLISHED
BETWEEN THE US ARMY AND THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, AS WELL,
OBVIOUSLY, AS REDOUNDING TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE USG
IN A COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS A MILITARY GOVERNMENT HEADED
BY AN ARMY GENERAL (PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ).

4. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE HIGH COST INVOLVED AND THE
RELUCTANCE WITH WHICH WE MUST VIEW SUCH REQUESTS FOR
MEDICAL CARE. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THIS
REQUEST IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S A-64 OF JAN 5, 1972,
AND BELIEVE THAT IT MERITS APPROVAL IN VIEW OF THE
HIGH BENEFIT TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS GAINED BY THE
INCREASING RAPPORT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH ECUADOR'S
LEADERSHIP.
BREWSTER

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